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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

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)	
In Re: AUTOMOTIVE PARTS)	12-md-02311
ANTITRUST LITIGATION)	Honorable Marianne O. Battani
)	
)	2:13-cv-01802-MOB-MKM
In re: INVERTERS)	
)	CONSOLIDATED AMENDED
)	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
THIS RELATES TO:)	
)	<u>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</u>
ALL DEALERSHIP ACTIONS)	
)	<u>[FILED UNDER SEAL-HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL]</u>

DEALERSHIP CONSOLIDATED CLASS COMPLAINT

Martens Cars of Washington, Inc. (“Plaintiff Martens”), Landers Auto Group No. 1, Inc., d/b/a Landers Toyota (“Plaintiff Landers”), Hammett Motor Company, Inc. (“Plaintiff Hammett”), Superstore Automotive, Inc. (“Plaintiff Superstore”), Lee Pontiac-Oldsmobile-GMC Truck, Inc. (“Plaintiff Lee”), V.I.P. Motor Cars Ltd. (“Plaintiff V.I.P.”), Desert European Motorcars, Ltd. (“Plaintiff Desert”), Dale Martens Nissan Subaru, Inc. (“Plaintiff Dale Martens”), Green Team of Clay Center Inc. (“Plaintiff Green Team”), McGrath Automotive Group, Inc. (“Plaintiff McGrath”), Table Rock Automotive, Inc., d/b/a Todd Archer Hyundai (“Plaintiff Table Rock”), Bonneville and Son, Inc. (“Plaintiff Bonneville”), Holzhauer Auto and Truck Sales, Inc. (“Plaintiff Holzhauer”), Pitre, Inc., d/b/a/ Pitre Buick GMC (“Plaintiff Pitre”), Patsy Lou Chevrolet, Inc. (“Plaintiff Patsy Lou”), John Greene Chrysler Dodge Jeep, LLC (“Plaintiff John Greene”), SLT Group II, Inc., d/b/a Planet Nissan Subaru of Flagstaff (“Plaintiff Planet Nissan”), Herb Hallman Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a/ Champion Chevrolet (“Plaintiff Champion”), Charles Daher’s Commonwealth Motors, Inc., d/b/a Commonwealth Chevrolet, Commonwealth Kia,

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Commonwealth Honda (“Plaintiff Commonwealth Motors”), Commonwealth Volkswagen, Inc., d/b/a Commonwealth Volkswagen (“Plaintiff Commonwealth Volkswagen”), Commonwealth Nissan, Inc., d/b/a Commonwealth Nissan (“Plaintiff Commonwealth Nissan”), Ramey Motors, Inc. (“Plaintiff Ramey”), Thornhill Superstore, Inc., d/b/a Thornhill GM Superstore (“Plaintiff Thornhill”), Dave Heather Corporation, d/b/a Lakeland Toyota Honda Mazda Subaru (“Plaintiff Lakeland”), Central Salt Lake Valley GMC Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Salt Lake Valley Buick GMC (“Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley”), Capitol Chevrolet Cadillac, Inc. (“Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet”), Capitol Dealerships, Inc., d/b/a Capitol Toyota (“Plaintiff Capitol Toyota”), Beck Motors, Inc. (“Plaintiff Beck”), Stranger Investments d/b/a Stephen Wade Toyota (“Plaintiff Wade”), John O’Neil Johnson Toyota, LLC (“Plaintiff Johnson”), Hartley Buick GMC Truck, Inc. (“Plaintiff Hartley”), Lee Oldsmobile-Cadillac, Inc. d/b/a Lee Honda (“Plaintiff Lee Honda”), Lee Auto Malls-Topsham, Inc. d/b/a Lee Toyota of Topsham (“Plaintiff Topsham”), Landers of Hazelwood, LLC d/b/a Landers Toyota of Hazelwood (“Plaintiff Hazelwood”), Cannon Chevrolet – Oldsmobile – Cadillac – Nissan, Inc. (“Plaintiff Cannon”), Cannon Nissan of Jackson, LLC (“Plaintiff Cannon Nissan”), Hudson Charleston Acquisition, LLC d/b/a Hudson Nissan (“Plaintiff Hudson Nissan”), Shearer Automotive Enterprises III, Inc. (“Plaintiff Shearer”), Apex Motor Corporation (“Plaintiff Apex”), Hudson Gastonia Acquisition, LLC (“Plaintiff Gastonia Nissan”), HC Acquisition, LLC d/b/a Toyota of Bristol (“Plaintiff Bristol Toyota”), Hodges Imported Cars, Inc. d/b/a Hodges Subaru (“Plaintiff Hodges”), Reno Dodge Sales, Inc. d/b/a Don Weir’s Reno Dodge (“Plaintiff Don Weir”), Panama City Automotive Group, Inc. d/b/a John Lee Nissan (“Plaintiff John Lee”), Empire Nissan of Santa Rosa, LLC (“Plaintiff Empire Nissan”), and Westfield Dodge City, Inc. (“Plaintiff Westfield”) (collectively “Plaintiffs”), file this Class Action Complaint on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated (the “Classes” as defined below).

Plaintiffs bring this class action for damages, injunctive relief, and other relief pursuant to federal

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antitrust laws and state unjust enrichment, antitrust, unfair competition, and consumer protection laws, demand a trial by jury, and allege as follows:

NATURE OF ACTION

1. This lawsuit is brought as a proposed class action against Defendants Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd., Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, Inc. (together, the “Hitachi Defendants” or “Hitachi”), DENSO Corporation, DENSO International America, Inc. (together, the “DENSO Defendants” or “DENSO”) (collectively “Defendants”), and unnamed co-conspirators, manufacturers and/or suppliers of Inverters (defined below) globally and in the United States, for engaging in a long-running conspiracy to unlawfully fix, artificially raise, maintain and/or stabilize prices, rig bids for, and allocate the market and customers in the United States for Inverters.

2. Plaintiffs seek to represent all automobile dealers who, during the period from and including January 1, 2000 through the present (the “Class Period”), purchased vehicles¹ containing one or more Inverters(s) as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Inverter(s) as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by the Defendants, any current or former subsidiary of the Defendants or any co-conspirator of the Defendants.

3. “Inverters” provide power to motors by converting direct current (“DC”) electricity from a vehicle’s battery to alternating current (“AC”) electricity.

4. The Defendants manufacture, market, and sell Inverters throughout and into the United States. Defendants and other co-conspirators (as yet unknown) agreed, combined and conspired to fix, raise, maintain and/or stabilize prices, rig bids and allocate market shares for Inverters.

5. The U.S. Department of Justice’s (“DOJ”) Antitrust Division is currently conducting a broad criminal investigation into illegal price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automotive parts industry. As

¹ “Vehicles” as used here, means any new vehicles purchased by automobile dealers throughout the United States, including but not limited to sedans, trucks and sport utility vehicles.

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part of its criminal investigation, the DOJ is seeking information about unlawful anticompetitive conduct in the market for a number of different but related automotive parts, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) has participated in raids, pursuant to search warrants, carried out in the offices of a number of major competitors in the automotive parts industry. The automotive parts investigation is the largest criminal investigation the Antitrust Division has ever pursued, both in terms of its scope and the potential volume of commerce affected by the alleged illegal conduct. The ongoing cartel investigation of price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automotive parts industry has yielded more than \$2.4 billion in criminal fines, already surpassing the total amount in criminal fines obtained by the DOJ’s Antitrust Division for all of last fiscal year. The European Commission Competition Authority (“EC”) has also conducted dawn raids at the European offices of several automotive parts manufacturers.

6. Defendant DENSO Corporation agreed to plead guilty to a two-count criminal Information and to pay a \$78 million fine for participating in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, certain electronic control units (“ECUs”) and heater control panels (“HCPs”) sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2000 until at least February 2010. The combination and conspiracy engaged in by Defendant DENSO Corporation and its co-conspirators was an unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

7. In addition to the fact that Defendant DENSO Corporation pleaded guilty and agreed on its own behalf and on behalf of its subsidiaries to cooperating in the government’s investigation, several of its high-ranking executives have pleaded guilty to criminal price-fixing in the automotive parts industry.

8. On March 26, 2012, the DOJ announced that Norihiro Imai, an executive of Defendant

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DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve one year and one day in a U.S. prison, pay a \$20,000 criminal fine, and plead guilty to a one-count criminal Information charging him with engaging in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of HCPs sold to customers in the United States and elsewhere.

9. On April 26, 2012, the DOJ announced that Makoto Hattori, an executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve fourteen months in a U.S. prison, pay a \$20,000 criminal fine, and plead guilty to a one-count criminal Information charging him with engaging in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of HCPs sold to a customer in the United States and elsewhere.

10. On May 21, 2013, the DOJ announced that Yuji Suzuki, an executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve sixteen months in a U.S. prison, pay a \$20,000 criminal fine, and plead guilty to a two-count criminal Information for his role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of ECUs and HCPs sold in the United States and elsewhere. Also on May 21, 2013, the DOJ announced that Hiroshi Watanabe an executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve fifteen months in a U.S. prison, pay a \$20,000 criminal fine, and plead guilty to a one-count criminal Information for his role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of HCPs sold in the United States and elsewhere.

11. On February 20, 2014, the DOJ announced that Kazuaki Fujitani, a former executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve one year and one day in a U.S. prison and plead guilty to a one-count criminal Information charging him with obstruction of justice for deleting numerous e-mails and electronic documents upon learning the FBI was executing a search warrant on Defendant DENSO International America, Inc. in connection with the DOJ's investigation into a conspiracy to fix the prices of HCPs installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

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12. On June 30, 2014, the DOJ announced that Satoru Horisaki, a former executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve one year and one day in a U.S. prison, pay a \$20,000 criminal fine, and plead guilty to a one-count criminal Information charging him with participating in a conspiracy to agree upon bids and prices for, and allocate the supply of, automotive instrument panel clusters sold to Honda of America Manufacturing Co. Inc., in the United States and elsewhere.

13. On September 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and pay a \$195 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive parts, including Inverters, installed in automobiles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2000 until at least February 2010. The combination and conspiracy engaged in by Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. and its co-conspirators was an unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

14. On June 30, 2014, the DOJ announced that a federal grand jury returned a one-count Indictment against Takashi Toyokuni, Ken Funasaki, Kazunobu Tsunekawa and Tomiya Itakura of Hitachi Automotive Systems Ltd. for agreeing to allocate the supply of, rig bids for, and fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of, certain automotive parts sold to various automobile manufacturers such as Ford Motor Company, General Motors LLC, Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., Toyota Motor Corporation, and Honda Motor Company, Ltd., and others, and certain of their subsidiaries, in the United States and elsewhere. For purposes of the Indictment, “automotive parts” included, among other products, Inverters.

15. The Defendants and their co-conspirators participated in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, Inverters sold to automobile manufacturers and others in the

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United States. The combination and conspiracy engaged in by the Hitachi Defendants and their co-conspirators was in unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, and state antitrust, unfair competition, consumer protection laws and unjust enrichment laws.

16. As a direct result of the anti-competitive and unlawful conduct alleged herein, Plaintiffs and the Classes (as defined below) paid artificially inflated prices for Inverters during the Class Period and have thereby suffered antitrust injury to their business or property.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

17. Plaintiffs bring this action under Section 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 26) to secure equitable and injunctive relief against the Defendants for violating Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1). Plaintiffs also assert claims for actual and exemplary damages pursuant to state antitrust, unfair competition, consumer protection, and unjust enrichment laws, and seek to obtain restitution, recover damages and secure other relief against the Defendants for violations of those state laws. Plaintiffs and the Classes also seek attorneys' fees, costs, and other expenses under federal and state law.

18. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to Section 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 26), Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1), and Title 28, United States Code, Sections 1331 and 1337. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d) and 1367, in that: (i) this is a class action in which the matter or controversy exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and in which some members of the proposed Classes are citizens of a state different from the Defendants; and (ii) Plaintiffs' state law claims form part of the same case or controversy as their federal claims under Article III of the United States Constitution.

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19. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 12 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 22), and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (b), (c), and (d), because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District, a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce discussed below has been carried out in this District, and the Defendants reside, are licensed to do business in, are doing business in, had agents in, or are found or transact business in this District.

20. This Court has *in personam* jurisdiction over the Defendants because each, either directly or through the ownership and/or control of their subsidiaries, *inter alia*: (a) transacted business in the United States, including in this District; (b) directly or indirectly sold or marketed substantial quantities of Inverters throughout the United States, including in this District; (c) had substantial aggregate contacts with the United States as a whole, including in this District; (d) targeted customers in the United States, including in this District; or (e) were engaged in an illegal price-fixing conspiracy that was directed at, and had a direct, substantial, reasonably foreseeable and intended effect of causing injury to the business or property of persons and entities residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the United States, including in this District. The Defendants also conduct business throughout the United States, including in this District, and have purposefully availed themselves of the laws of the United States.

21. The Defendants engaged in conduct both inside and outside of the United States that caused direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable and intended anticompetitive effects upon interstate commerce within the United States.

22. The activities of the Defendants and their co-conspirators were within the flow of, were intended to, and did have, a substantial effect on interstate commerce of the United States. The Defendants' products are sold in the flow of interstate commerce.

23. Inverters manufactured abroad by the Defendants and sold for use in automobiles in

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the United States are goods brought into the United States for sale, and therefore constitute import commerce. To the extent any Inverters are purchased in the United States, and such Inverters do not constitute import commerce, the Defendants' unlawful activities with respect thereto, as more fully alleged herein during the Class Period, had, and continue to have, a direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable effect on United States commerce. The anticompetitive conduct, and its effect on United States commerce described herein, proximately caused antitrust injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Classes in the United States.

24. By reason of the unlawful activities hereinafter alleged, the Defendants substantially affected commerce throughout the United States, causing injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Classes. The Defendants, directly and through their agents, engaged in activities affecting all states, to fix, raise, maintain and/or stabilize prices, rig bids and allocate the market and customers in the United States for Inverters, which conspiracy unreasonably restrained trade and adversely affected the market for Inverters.

25. The Defendants' conspiracy and wrongdoing described herein adversely affected automobile dealers in the United States.

PARTIES

Plaintiffs

26. Plaintiff Hammett is a Mississippi corporation with its principal place of business in Durant, Mississippi. Plaintiff Hammett is an authorized Ford dealer who bought Ford-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

27. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hammett purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hammett purchased and received the

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afore-mentioned vehicles in Mississippi. Plaintiff Hammett has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Mississippi during the Class Period.

28. Plaintiff Landers is an Arkansas corporation with its principal place of business in Little Rock, Arkansas. Plaintiff Landers is an authorized Toyota dealer who bought Toyota-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

29. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Landers purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Landers purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Arkansas. Plaintiff Landers has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Arkansas during the Class Period.

30. Plaintiff Superstore is a Minnesota company, with its principal place of business in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Plaintiff Superstore is an authorized Buick/GMC dealer, doing business under the name White Bear Lake Superstore. Plaintiff Superstore bought Buick- or GMC-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

31. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Superstore purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Superstore purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Minnesota. Plaintiff Superstore has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Minnesota during the Class Period.

32. Plaintiff Martens is a Maryland corporation that had its principal place of business in the District of Columbia during the Class Period. During the Class Period Plaintiff Martens was an authorized Volvo and Volkswagen dealer who sold Volvo- or Volkswagen-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the class

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period.

33. During the Class Period Plaintiff Martens purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Martens purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in the District of Columbia. Plaintiff Martens has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in the District of Columbia during the Class Period.

34. Plaintiff Lee is a Florida corporation, with its principal place of business in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Plaintiff Lee is presently an authorized GMC dealer. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lee was also an authorized Pontiac, Oldsmobile and Jeep dealer. Plaintiff Lee buys GMC-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators,. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lee bought GMC- Pontiac-, Oldsmobile-, or Jeep-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators.

35. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lee purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Lee purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Florida. Plaintiff Lee has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Florida during the Class Period.

36. Plaintiff V.I.P. is a California company with its principal place of business in Palm Springs, California. Plaintiff VIP is an authorized Mercedes, BMW, Infiniti, and Hyundai dealer who bought Mercedes-, BMW-, Infiniti-, or Hyundai-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

37. During the Class Period, Plaintiff V.I.P. purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff V.I.P. purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in California. Plaintiff V.I.P. has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in California during the Class Period.

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38. Plaintiff Desert is a California company, with its principal place of business in Rancho Mirage, California. Plaintiff Desert is an authorized Rolls Royce, Bentley, Aston Martin, Maserati, Porsche, Jaguar, Land Rover, Audi, Lotus, and Spyker dealer who bought Rolls Royce-, Bentley-, Aston Martin-, Maserati-, Porsche-, Jaguar-, Land Rover-, Audi-, Lotus-, and Spyker-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

39. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Desert purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Desert purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in California. Plaintiff Desert has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in California during the Class Period.

40. Plaintiff Dale Martens was a Kansas corporation, with its principal place of business in Lawrence, Kansas during the Class Period. Plaintiff Dale Martens was an authorized Nissan and Subaru dealer during the Class Period, who, during the Class Period, bought Nissan- or Subaru-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators.

41. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Dale Martens purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Dale Martens purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Kansas. Plaintiff Dale Martens has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Kansas during the Class Period.

42. Plaintiff Green Team is a Kansas corporation, with its principal place of business in Clay Center, Kansas. Plaintiff Green Team is an authorized Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, and Ram dealer, who bought Chrysler-, Jeep-, Dodge-, or Ram-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

43. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Green Team purchased vehicles containing Inverters

REDACTED

manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Green Team purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Kansas. Plaintiff Green Team has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Kansas during the Class Period.

44. Plaintiff McGrath is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Plaintiff McGrath is an authorized Buick, GMC, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Kia, and Cadillac dealer, who bought Buick-, GMC-, Chevrolet-, Chrysler-, Dodge-, Jeep-, Ram-, Kia-, or Cadillac-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

45. During the Class Period, Plaintiff McGrath purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff McGrath purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Iowa. Plaintiff McGrath has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Iowa during the Class Period.

46. Plaintiff Table Rock is a Nebraska corporation, with its principal place of business in Bellevue, Nebraska. Plaintiff Table Rock is an authorized Hyundai dealer, who bought Hyundai-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

47. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Table Rock purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Table Rock purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Nebraska. Plaintiff Table Rock has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Nebraska during the Class Period.

48. Plaintiff Bonneville is a New Hampshire corporation, with its principal place of business in Manchester, New Hampshire. Plaintiff Bonneville is an authorized Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, and Ram dealer, who bought Chrysler-, Dodge-, Jeep-, or Ram-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured

REDACTED

by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

49. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Bonneville purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Bonneville purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in New Hampshire. Plaintiff Bonneville has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in New Hampshire during the Class Period.

50. Plaintiff Holzhauer is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in Nashville, Illinois. Plaintiff Holzhauer is an authorized Dodge, Chrysler, and Jeep dealer, who bought Dodge-, Chrysler-, or Jeep-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

51. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Holzhauer purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Holzhauer purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Illinois. Plaintiff Holzhauer has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Illinois during the Class Period.

52. Plaintiff Pitre is a New Mexico corporation, with its principal place of business in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Plaintiff Pitre is an authorized Buick and GMC dealer, who bought Buick- or GMC-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

53. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Pitre purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Pitre purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in New Mexico. Plaintiff Pitre has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in New Mexico during the Class Period.

54. Plaintiff Patsy Lou is a Michigan corporation, with its principal place of business in Flint, Michigan. Plaintiff Patsy Lou is an authorized Chevrolet dealer, who bought Chevrolet-brand vehicles

REDACTED

containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

55. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Patsy Lou purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Patsy Lou purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Michigan. Plaintiff Patsy Lou has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Michigan during the Class Period.

56. Plaintiff John Greene is a North Carolina corporation, with its principal place of business in Morganton, North Carolina. Plaintiff John Greene is an authorized Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Ram dealer, who bought Chrysler-, Dodge-, Jeep-, or Ram-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

57. During the Class Period, Plaintiff John Greene purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff John Greene purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in North Carolina. Plaintiff John Greene has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in North Carolina during the Class Period.

58. Plaintiff Planet Nissan is an Arizona corporation, with its principal place of business in Flagstaff, Arizona. Plaintiff Planet Nissan is an authorized Nissan and Subaru dealer, who bought Nissan- or Subaru-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

59. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Planet Nissan purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Planet Nissan purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Arizona. Plaintiff Planet Nissan has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Arizona during the Class Period.

60. Plaintiff Champion is a Nevada corporation, with its principal place of business in Reno,

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Nevada. Plaintiff Champion is an authorized Chevrolet dealer, who bought Chevrolet-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

61. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Champion purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Champion purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Nevada. Plaintiff Champion has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Nevada during the Class Period.

62. Plaintiff Commonwealth Motors is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Plaintiff Commonwealth Motors is an authorized Chevrolet, Honda, and Kia dealer, who bought Chevrolet-, Honda-, or Kia-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

63. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Commonwealth Motors purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Commonwealth Motors purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Massachusetts. Plaintiff Commonwealth Motors has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Massachusetts during the Class Period.

64. Plaintiff Commonwealth Volkswagen is a Massachusetts corporation with its principal place of business in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Plaintiff Commonwealth Volkswagen is an authorized Volkswagen dealer, who bought Volkswagen-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

65. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Commonwealth Volkswagen purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Commonwealth Volkswagen purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Massachusetts.

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Plaintiff Commonwealth Volkswagen has also displayed, sold, serviced and advertised its vehicles in Massachusetts during the Class Period.

66. Plaintiff Commonwealth Nissan is a Massachusetts corporation with its principal place of business in the Lawrence, Massachusetts. Plaintiff Commonwealth Nissan is an authorized Nissan dealer, who bought Nissan-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

67. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Commonwealth Nissan purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Commonwealth Nissan purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Massachusetts. Plaintiff Commonwealth Nissan has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Massachusetts during the Class Period.

68. Plaintiff Ramey is a West Virginia company with its principal place of business in Princeton, West Virginia. Plaintiff Ramey is an authorized Toyota, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Ram dealer, who bought Toyota-, Chrysler-, Dodge-, Jeep-, or Ram-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

69. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Ramey purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Ramey purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in West Virginia. Plaintiff Ramey has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in West Virginia during the Class Period.

70. Plaintiff Thornhill is a West Virginia corporation, with its principal place of business in Chapmanville, West Virginia. Plaintiff Thornhill is an authorized Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC dealer, who bought Chevrolet-, Buick-, and GMC-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

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71. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Thornhill purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Thornhill purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in West Virginia. Plaintiff Thornhill has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in West Virginia during the Class Period.

72. Plaintiff Lakeland is a Wisconsin corporation with its principal place of business in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Plaintiff Lakeland is an authorized Toyota, Honda, Mazda, and Subaru dealer who bought Toyota- Honda-, Mazda-, or Subaru-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

73. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lakeland purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Lakeland purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Wisconsin. Plaintiff Lakeland has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Wisconsin during the Class Period.

74. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley is a Utah company, with its principal place of business in Salt Lake City, Utah. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley is an authorized Buick and GMC dealer, who bought Buick- or GMC-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

75. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Utah. Plaintiff Salt Lake Valley has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Utah during the Class Period.

76. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet is an Oregon corporation, with its principal place of business in Salem, Oregon. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet is an authorized Chevrolet, Cadillac, and Subaru dealer, who bought Chevrolet-, Cadillac-, or Subaru-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or

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more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

77. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Oregon. Plaintiff Capitol Chevrolet has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Oregon during the Class Period.

78. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota is an Oregon corporation with its principal place of business in Salem, Oregon. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

79. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Capitol Toyota purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Oregon. Plaintiff Capitol Toyota has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Oregon during the Class Period.

80. Plaintiff Beck is a South Dakota corporation, with its principal place of business in Pierre, South Dakota. Plaintiff Beck is an authorized Chevrolet and Cadillac dealer, who bought Chevrolet- or Cadillac-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

81. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Beck purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Beck purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in South Dakota. Plaintiff Beck has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in South Dakota during the Class Period.

82. Plaintiff Wade is a Utah corporation, with its principal place of business in St. George, Utah. Plaintiff Wade is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand cars containing Inverters

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manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

83. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Wade purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Wade purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Utah. Plaintiff Wade has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Utah during the Class Period.

84. Plaintiff Johnson is a Mississippi limited liability company, with its principal place of business in Meridian, Mississippi. Plaintiff Johnson is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators during the Class Period.

85. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Johnson purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Johnson purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Mississippi. Plaintiff Johnson has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Mississippi during the Class Period.

86. Plaintiff Hartley is a New York corporation, with its principal place of business in Jamestown, New York. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hartley has been an authorized Honda, Buick, Pontiac, and GM dealer, who bought Honda-, Buick-, Pontiac-, or GM-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators.

87. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hartley purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hartley purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in New York. Plaintiff Hartley has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in New York during the Class Period.

88. Plaintiff Lee Honda is a Maine corporation, with its principal place of business in Auburn, Maine. Plaintiff Lee Honda is an authorized Honda dealer, who bought Honda-brand cars

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containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

89. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Lee Honda purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Lee Honda purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Maine. Plaintiff Lee Honda has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Maine during the Class Period.

90. Plaintiff Topsham is a Maine corporation, with its principal place of business in Topsham, Maine. Plaintiff Topsham is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

91. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Topsham purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Topsham purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Maine. Plaintiff Topsham has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Maine during the Class Period.

92. Plaintiff Hazelwood is an Arkansas corporation, with its principal place of business in Hazelwood, Missouri. Plaintiff Hazelwood is an authorized Toyota dealer, who bought Toyota-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

93. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hazelwood purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hazelwood purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Missouri. Plaintiff Hazelwood has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Missouri during the Class Period.

94. Plaintiff Landers Chrysler is an Arkansas corporation, with its principal place of business in Little Rock, Arkansas. Plaintiff Landers Chrysler is an authorized Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep dealer, who bought Chrysler-, Dodge- or Jeep-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants

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or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

95. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Landers Chrysler purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Landers Chrysler purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Arkansas. Plaintiff Landers Chrysler has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Arkansas during the Class Period.

96. Plaintiff Cannon is a Mississippi corporation, with its principal place of business in Greenwood, Mississippi. Plaintiff Cannon is an authorized Chevrolet and Cadillac dealer, who bought Chevrolet- or Cadillac-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

97. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Cannon purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Cannon purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Mississippi. Plaintiff Cannon has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Mississippi during the Class Period.

98. Plaintiff Cannon Nissan is a Mississippi limited liability company with its principal place of business in Jackson, Mississippi. Plaintiff Cannon is an authorized Nissan dealer, who bought Nissan-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

99. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Cannon Nissan purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Cannon purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Mississippi. Plaintiff Cannon has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Mississippi during the Class Period.

100. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan is a South Carolina limited liability company with its principal place of business in North Charleston, South Carolina. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan is an authorized Nissan

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dealer, who bought Nissan-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

101. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Hudson Nissan purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in South Carolina. Plaintiff Hudson Nissan has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in South Carolina during the Class Period.

102. Plaintiff Shearer is a Vermont corporation with its principal place of business in Rutland, Vermont. Plaintiff Shearer is an authorized Honda dealer, who bought Honda-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

103. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Shearer purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Shearer purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Vermont. Plaintiff Shearer has also displayed, sold, serviced and advertised its vehicles in Vermont during the Class Period.

104. Plaintiff Apex is a Vermont corporation with its principal place of business in South Burlington, Vermont. Plaintiff Apex is an authorized Acura dealer, who bought Acura-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

105. During the Class Period, Plaintiff Apex purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Apex purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Vermont. Plaintiff Apex has also displayed, sold, serviced and advertised its vehicles in Vermont during the Class Period.

106. Plaintiff Gastonia Nissan is a North Carolina limited liability company with its principal

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place of business in Gastonia, North Carolina. Plaintiff Gastonia Nissan is an authorized Nissan dealer that purchased Nissan-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

107. During the Class Period Plaintiff Gastonia Nissan purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Gastonia Nissan purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in North Carolina. Plaintiff Gastonia Nissan has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in North Carolina during the Class Period.

108. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota is a Tennessee limited liability company with its principal place of business in Bristol, Tennessee. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota is an authorized Toyota dealer that purchased Toyota-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

109. During the Class Period Plaintiff Bristol Toyota purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Tennessee. Plaintiff Bristol Toyota has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Tennessee during the Class Period.

110. Plaintiff Hodges is a Michigan corporation with its principal place of business in Ferndale, Michigan. Plaintiff Hodges is an authorized Subaru dealer that purchased Subaru-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

111. During the Class Period Plaintiff Hodges purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Hodges purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Michigan. Plaintiff Hodges has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Michigan during the Class Period.

112. Plaintiff Don Weir is a Nevada Corporation with its principal place of business in

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Reno, Nevada. Plaintiff Weir is an authorized Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep dealer that purchased Chrysler-, Dodge-or Jeep-brand cars containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

113. During the Class Period Plaintiff Don Weir purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Don Weir purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Nevada. Plaintiff Don Weir has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Nevada during the Class Period.

114. Plaintiff John Lee is a Florida corporation with its principal place of business in Panama City, Florida. Plaintiff John Lee is an authorized Nissan dealer, who bought Nissan-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

115. During the Class Period Plaintiff John Lee purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff John Lee purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in Florida. Plaintiff John Lee has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in Florida during the Class Period.

116. Plaintiff Empire Nissan is a California limited liability company with its principal place of business in Santa Rosa, California. Plaintiff Empire Nissan is an authorized Nissan dealer, who bought Nissan-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the Class Period.

117. During the Class Period Plaintiff Empire Nissan purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Empire Nissan purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in California. Plaintiff Empire Nissan has also displayed, sold, serviced, and advertised its vehicles in California during the Class Period.

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118. Plaintiff Westfield is a New York company with its principal place of business in Westfield, New York. Plaintiff Westfield is an authorized Chrysler dealer, who sells Chrysler-, Dodge- and Jeep-brand vehicles containing Inverters manufactured by one or more of the Defendants or their co-conspirators, during the class period.

119. During the Class Period Plaintiff Westfield purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured one or more Defendants or their co-conspirators. Plaintiff Westfield purchased and received the afore-mentioned vehicles in New York. Plaintiff Westfield has also displayed, sold, serviced and advertised its vehicles in New York during the Class Period.

Defendants

DENSO Defendants

120. Defendant DENSO Corporation is a Japanese corporation with its principal place of business in Kariya, Japan. Defendant DENSO Corporation – directly and/or through its subsidiaries, which it wholly owned and/or controlled – manufactured, marketed and/or sold Inverters that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Inverters to Plaintiffs and Class members.

121. Defendant DENSO International America, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Southfield, Michigan. It is a subsidiary of and wholly owned and/or controlled by its parent, DENSO Corporation. DENSO International America, Inc. – directly and/or through its subsidiaries, which it wholly owned and/or controlled – manufactured, marketed, and/or sold Inverters that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Inverters to Plaintiffs and Class members. At all times during the Class Period, its activities in the United States were under the control and direction of its Japanese parent, which controlled its policies, sales and finances.

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Hitachi Defendants

122. Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. is a Japanese company with its principal place of business in Tokyo, Japan. Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. – directly and/or through its subsidiaries, which it wholly owned and/or controlled – manufactured, marketed and/or sold Inverters that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Inverters to Plaintiffs and Class members.

123. Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. It is a subsidiary of and wholly owned and/or controlled by its parent, Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, Inc. manufactured, marketed and/or sold Inverters that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period, including by firms that sold such Inverters to Plaintiffs and Class members. At all times during the Class Period its activities were under the control and direction of Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd., which controlled its policies, sales and finances.

AGENTS AND CO-CONSPIRATORS

124. Each Defendant acted as the principal of or agent for the other Defendants with respect to the acts, violations, and common course of conduct alleged herein.

125. Various persons, partnerships, sole proprietors, firms, corporations and individuals not named as defendants in this lawsuit, and individuals, the identities of which are presently unknown, have participated as co-conspirators with the Defendants in the offenses alleged in this Complaint, and have performed acts and made statements in furtherance of the conspiracy or in furtherance of the anticompetitive conduct.

126. Whenever in this Complaint reference is made to any act, deed or transaction of any corporation or limited liability entity, the allegation means that the corporation or limited liability entity engaged in the act, deed or transaction by or through its officers, directors, agents, employees or

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representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control or transaction of the corporation's or limited liability entity's business or affairs.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. The Inverters Industry

127. Inverters provide power to motors by converting direct current ("DC") electricity from a vehicle's battery to alternating current ("AC") electricity. An example of an Inverter is shown below.

128. Every vehicle with an electric traction motor requires inverters to power them. The traction inverter converts high voltage DC electricity into multi-phase AC current that drives the three-phase induction or permanent magnet electric machines used to actuate the motor in hybrid and electric vehicles. Every electric vehicle requires at least one electric traction motor. In many cases many electric or hybrid vehicles have two or more, and each traction motor requires a separate inverter.

129. Globally, the inverter market is estimated to be \$45 billion in 2012. The total market for hybrid and pure electric automotive inverters is estimated to be a \$10 billion a year industry.

DENSO and Hitachi are two of the global leaders in supplying inverters for motor vehicles.

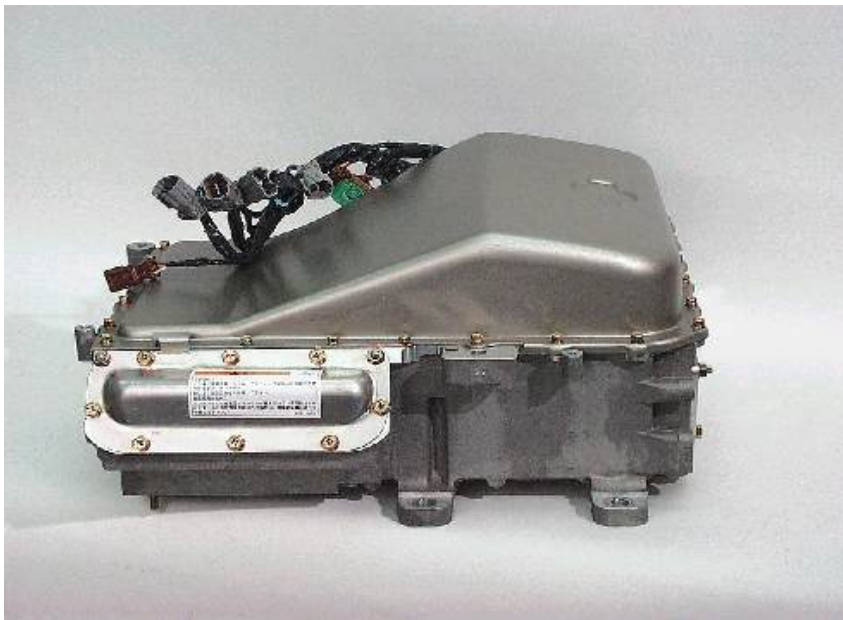
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Top 10 Automotive Traction Drive Inverter Suppliers, 2010-2012

Propulsion Inverter Supplier	2010*	2011*	2012*	Three Year Total*
Toyota/DENSO	770,863	680,738	1,279,073	2,730,674
Mitsubishi Electric	195,536	226,033	294,868	716,437
Hitachi	29,663	58,365	156,065	244,093
Toshiba	69,706	5,885	42,320	117,911
Continental	7,859	20,257	85,585	113,701
Bosch	7,332	19,003	56,153	82,488
Hyundai Mobis	11,652	27,940	53,762	93,354
Calsonic Kansei	0	27,258	37,980	65,238
TDK	0	56,952	22,271	79,223
Edrive	563	4,285	9,025	13,873
Annual Subtotals*:	1,093,174	1,126,716	2,037,102	4,256,992

*These numbers are provided to show order of magnitude comparisons between suppliers. Data is based on ongoing research and subject to change as updates become available. Note that rankings below the top seven are subject to significant churn. Totals reflect the number of vehicles in which the inverters were installed for that calendar year.

Source: Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy - U.S. Department of Energy; Synthesis Partners' power electronics and automotive technology supplier database (March 2013).



Electric Vehicle Inverter

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130. Inverters are installed by original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”) in new cars as part of the automotive manufacturing process. They are also installed by OEMs in cars to replace worn out, defective or damaged Inverters.

131. For new cars, the OEMs—mostly large automotive manufacturers such as Ford Motor Company, Toyota Motor Corporation and Nissan Motor Company—purchase Inverters directly from the Defendants. Inverters may also be purchased by component manufacturers who then supply such systems to OEMs. These component manufacturers are also called “Tier 1 Manufacturers” in the industry. Tier 1 Manufacturers supply Inverters directly to an OEM.

132. When purchasing Inverters, OEMs issue Requests for Quotation (“RFQs”) to automotive parts suppliers on a model-by-model basis for model specific parts. Automotive parts suppliers submit quotations, or bids, to OEMs in response to RFQs, and the OEMs usually award the business to the selected automotive parts supplier for the lifespan of the model, which is usually four to six years. Typically, the bidding process for a particular model begins approximately three years prior to the start of production of a new model. OEMs procure parts for U.S.-manufactured vehicles in the United States and elsewhere.

133. Suppliers, including Defendants, supply OEMs with both Inverters to be installed in vehicles and Inverters to be used for replacement parts.

134. Replacement Inverters sold by OEMs to dealerships are the same as the Inverters installed in vehicles and are made by the same manufacturer who made the Inverters originally installed – that is the purpose of an OEM part, made by the OEM supplier. Such replacement parts are not the same as aftermarket parts, which are made by different manufacturers than those who manufactured the original parts. The prices of replacement Inverters were inflated by Defendants’ collusion.

135. The Defendants and their co-conspirators supplied Inverters to OEMs for installation

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in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere. The Defendants and their co-conspirators manufactured Inverters (a) in the United States and elsewhere for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States, (b) in Japan and elsewhere for export to the United States and installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States, and (c) in Japan and elsewhere for installation in vehicles manufactured in Japan and elsewhere for export to and sale in the United States.

136. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Classes purchased Inverters indirectly from the Defendants or their co-conspirators. By way of example, an automobile dealer indirectly purchases one or more Inverter(s) from the Defendants or their co-conspirators as part of purchasing a new vehicle. An automobile dealer also indirectly purchases for replacement one or more Inverter(s) from the Defendants or their co-conspirators when repairing a damaged vehicle or where one or more of the vehicle's Inverter(s) are defective.

B. The Structure and Characteristics of the Inverters Market Render the Conspiracy More Plausible

137. The structure and other characteristics of the Inverters market in the United States are conducive to a price-fixing agreement, and have made collusion particularly attractive in this market. Specifically, the Inverters market: (1) has high barriers to entry; and (2) has inelasticity of demand.

1. The Inverters Market Has High Barriers to Entry

138. A collusive arrangement that raises product prices above competitive levels would, under basic economic principles, attract new entrants seeking to benefit from the supra-competitive pricing. Where, however, there are significant barriers to entry, new entrants are less likely. Thus, barriers to entry help to facilitate the formation and maintenance of a cartel.

139. There are substantial barriers that preclude, reduce, or make more difficult entry into the Inverters market. A new entrant into the business would face costly and lengthy start-up costs,

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including multi-million dollar costs associated with manufacturing plants and equipment, energy, transportation, distribution infrastructure, and long-standing customer relationships.

140. Likewise, any competitor needs advanced engineering and technological prowess in order to design a competitive inverter based on the design, selection, and use of power device materials, power capacitors and cooling technologies for the inverter component.

141. In addition, OEMs cannot change Inverters suppliers randomly after a supplier is initially selected because the OEMs design the features of their vehicles so that the Inverters they purchase for a vehicle are then integrated with the other components of the ignition system of the particular vehicle model. Thus, the design must be synergized by the Inverters manufacturers and OEMs. It would be difficult for a new market entrant to do so.

2. **There is Inelasticity of Demand for Inverters**

142. “Elasticity” is a term used to describe the sensitivity of supply and demand to changes in one or the other. For example, demand is said to be “inelastic” if an increase in the price of a product results in only a small decline in the quantity sold of that product, if any. In other words, customers have nowhere to turn for alternative, cheaper products of similar quality, and so continue to purchase despite a price increase.

143. For a cartel to profit from raising prices above competitive levels, demand must be relatively inelastic at competitive prices. Otherwise, increased prices would result in declining sales, revenues, and profits, as customers purchased substitute products or declined to buy altogether. Inelastic demand is a market characteristic that facilitates collusion, allowing producers to raise their prices without triggering customer substitution and lost sales revenue.

144. Demand for Inverters is highly inelastic because there are no close substitutes for these products. In addition, customers must purchase Inverters as an essential part of a vehicle, even if the prices are kept at a supra-competitive level.

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C. Government Investigations

145. A globally coordinated antitrust investigation is taking place in the United States, Europe, and Japan, aimed at suppliers of automotive parts. A Japan Fair Trade Commission (“JFTC”) official told a leading legal publication that automotive parts supplier investigations by the JFTC, DOJ and EC would continue to widen because the automotive industry as a whole comprises many sub-industries. He characterized the investigations being conducted by the U.S., European and Japanese antitrust authorities as “large and broad,” and he declined to deny that this “would be history’s largest case.”

146. The antitrust probe originated in Europe as the result of several European OEMs coming together to bring a complaint to the European Commission (“EC”). The EC and the FBI have executed surprise raids at the European and U.S. offices of several auto parts manufacturers, including certain Defendants, as part of an investigation into anticompetitive conduct related to the manufacturing and sale of automotive parts.

147. On February 8, 2010, the EC executed surprise raids at the European offices of certain automotive parts makers.

148. The DOJ Antitrust Division’s broad criminal investigation into illegal price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automotive parts industry is the largest criminal investigation the Antitrust Division has ever pursued. The ongoing cartel investigation of price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automobile parts industry has yielded more than \$2.4 billion in criminal fines levied against various automotive parts manufacturers and their executives.

149. In February 2010, the JFTC raided the Tokyo offices of Defendant DENSO Corporation as part of an expansive investigation into collusion in the automotive parts industry dating back to at least 2000.

150. The JFTC raided offices of DENSO Defendants as part of the spreading investigation

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into suspected price fixing of automotive parts. According to its 2011 Annual Report, DENSO Corporation's offices were searched on July 20, 2011 at various locations, including in Kariya, Aichi and some other sales branches in Japan.

151. The DOJ has stated that it is conducting an investigation of potential antitrust activity and coordinating its investigation with antitrust regulators in Europe. "The antitrust division is investigating the possibility of anticompetitive cartel conduct of automotive electronic component suppliers," Justice Department Spokeswoman Gina Talamona said.

152. Indeed, on February 23, 2010, around the same time as the raids by the Japanese and European competition authorities, investigators from the FBI raided three Detroit-area Japanese auto parts makers as part of a federal antitrust investigation. The FBI executed warrants and searched the offices of these companies, including DENSO Corporation's subsidiary in Southfield, Michigan. Special Agent Sandra Berchtold said the affidavits supporting issuance of the warrants were sealed in federal court.

153. To obtain search warrants, the United States was legally required to have probable cause, accepted by a magistrate, to believe that it would obtain evidence of an antitrust violation as a result of executing the search warrant – that is, the United States had to have evidence sufficient to warrant a person of reasonable caution to believe that raiding the offices of a seemingly lawful business would uncover evidence of antitrust violations and that claimed evidence must have been examined and accepted by a magistrate. That belief, which was recounted in sworn affidavits or testimony, must be grounded on reasonably trustworthy information.

Defendant DENSO Corporation Pleads Guilty to Price-Fixing ECUs and HCPs

154. On January 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Defendant DENSO Corporation had agreed to pay a \$78 million fine and plead guilty to a two-count criminal Information charging it with:

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(1) participating in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, electronic control units (“ECUs”) sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2000 and until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1; and (2) participating in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, heater control panels (“HCPs”) sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2000 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

155. According to the criminal Information filed against it, Defendant DENSO Corporation and its co-conspirators carried out the ECU conspiracy by:

- (a) participating in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and Japan to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere;
- (b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere;
- (c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate the supply of ECUs sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere on a model-by-model basis;
- (d) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to coordinate price adjustments requested by an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere;

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- (e) submitting bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;
- (f) selling ECUs to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;
- (g) accepting payment for ECUs sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and non-competitive prices;
- (h) engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon bid-rigging and price-fixing scheme; and
- (i) employing measures to keep their conduct secret, including but not limited to using code names and meeting at private residences or remote locations.

156. According to the criminal Information filed against it, Defendant DENSO Corporation and its co-conspirators carried out the HCP conspiracy by:

- (a) participating in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and Japan to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere;
- (b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere;
- (c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate the supply of HCPs sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere on a model-by-model basis;

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- (d) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to coordinate price adjustments requested by an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere;
- (e) submitting bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;
- (f) selling HCPs to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;
- (g) accepting payment for HCPs sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;
- (h) engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon bid-rigging and price-fixing scheme; and
- (i) employing measures to keep their conduct secret, including but not limited to using code names and meeting at private residences or remote locations.

**Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd.
Pleads Guilty to Price-Fixing Certain Automotive Parts**

157. On September 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. agreed to pay a \$195 million criminal fine and to plead guilty to a one-count criminal information charging it with participating in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to allocate the supply of, rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of automotive parts, including Inverters, sold to automobile manufactures in the United States and elsewhere for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2000 and continuing until at least February

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2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

158. According to the Information filed, Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. and its co-conspirators carried out the Inverters conspiracy by:

- (a) participating in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate the supply of Inverters sold to automobile manufactures in the United States and elsewhere;
- (d) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to coordinate price adjustments requested by automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;
- (e) submitting bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;
- (f) selling automotive parts, including Inverters, to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;
- (g) accepting payment for automotive parts, including Inverters, sold to automobile manufacturers in the United State and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;
- (h) engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States

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and elsewhere for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon bid-rigging and price-fixing scheme; and

(i) employing measures to keep their conduct secret, including, but not limited to, using code names and meeting at remote locations.

D. Guilty Pleas and Other Criminal Pleadings in the Automotive Industry

159. On September 29, 2011, the DOJ announced that Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$200 million criminal fine for its role in a criminal price-fixing and bid rigging conspiracy involving the sale of automotive wire harnesses and related products to automobile manufacturers.

160. Three of Furukawa's executives also pleaded guilty to the same conspiracy. The court sentenced two of the executives to 15 and 18 month prison sentences, to be served in the United States.

161. In the press release announcing the fine against Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd., Sharis A Pozen, then the Acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of the DOJ's Antitrust division, said that "[a]s a result of this international price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracy, automobile manufacturers paid noncompetitive and higher prices for parts in cars sold to U.S. consumers." Ms. Pozen also stated that "[t]his cartel harmed an important industry in our nation's economy, and the Antitrust Division with the Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue to work together to ensure that these kinds of conspiracies are stopped." The press release also quoted FBI's Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, who said that "[w]hen companies partner to control and price fix bids or contracts, it undermines the foundation of the United States' economic system," and that "[t]he FBI is committed to aggressively pursuing any company involved in antitrust crimes."

162. On January 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Yazaki Corporation ("Yazaki") and DENSO Corporation ("DENSO") had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a total of \$548 million in criminal fines for their involvement in multiple price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracies in the sale of

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automotive parts to automotive manufacturers in the United States. According to the three-count felony charge against Yazaki, it engaged in the following three conspiracies: (1) participating in a combination and conspiracy with its co-conspirators to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, automotive wire harnesses and related products sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2000 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1; (2) participating in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, instrument panel clusters sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere, from at least as early as December 2002 until at least February 2010, in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1; and (3) participating in a combination and conspiracy with its co-conspirators to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of fuel senders sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as March 2004 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

163. According to the two-count felony charge against DENSO, it engaged in conspiracies to rig bids for and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of electric control units and heater control panels.

164. In addition to Yazaki, five executives from Yazaki (all Japanese nationals) – Tsuneaki Hanamura, Ryoji Kawai, Shigeru Ogawa, Kazuhiko Kashimoto and Hisamitsu Takada – pleaded guilty to their participation in a conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of automotive wire harnesses sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere in violation of the

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Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1. These five Yazaki executives will each pay a \$20,000 criminal fine and serve prison time ranging from 15 months to two years. The two-year sentences would be the longest term of imprisonment imposed on a foreign national voluntarily submitting to U.S. jurisdiction for a Sherman Act antitrust violation.

165. On March 26, 2012, the DOJ announced that Norihiro Imai, and executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve one year and one day in a U.S. prison, pay a \$20,000 criminal fine, and plead guilty to a one-count criminal Information charging him with engaging in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of heater control panels sold to customers in the United States.

166. On April 26, 2012, the DOJ announced that Makoto Hattori, another executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve fourteen months in a U.S. prison, pay a \$20,000 criminal fine, and plead guilty to a one-count criminal Information charging him with engaging in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of heater control panels sold to a customer in the United States and elsewhere.

167. On May 21, 2013, the DOJ announced that Yuji Suzuki, yet another executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve sixteen months in a U.S. prison, pay a \$20,000 criminal fine, and plead guilty to a two-count criminal Information for his role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of electronic control units and heater control panels sold in the United States and elsewhere.

168. In the press release announcing the fines against Yazaki and DENSO, FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena said that “[t]his criminal activity has a significant impact on the automotive manufacturers in the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe and has been occurring for at least a decade. The conduct had also affected commerce on a global scale in almost every market where

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automobiles are manufactured and/or sold[.]”

169. “When companies partner to control and price fix bids or contracts, it undermines the foundation of the United States’ economic system,” Arena also said. “The FBI is committed to aggressively pursuing any company involved in antitrust crimes.”

170. A number of additional companies have pleaded guilty to fixing the prices of automotive parts, including, among others: automotive wire harnesses; instrument panel clusters; fuel senders; heater control panels; occupant safety restraint systems; automotive bearings; windshield wipers; starters; radiators; alternators; ignition coils; anti-vibration rubber parts, air conditioning systems; automatic transmission fluid warmers; fan motors; switches; steering angle sensors; HID ballasts; and automotive lamps. These companies include, among others: Fujikura Ltd.; GS Electech, Inc.; TRW Deutschland Holding GmbH; Autoliv, Inc.; Nippon Seiki Co., Ltd.; JTEKT Corporation; Mitsuba Corporation; Mitsubishi Electric Corporation; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.; NSK Ltd.; Panasonic Corporation; T. RAD Co., Ltd.; Tokai Rika Co.; Valeo Japan Co., Ltd.; and Yamashita Rubber Co., Ltd. The majority of these violators pleaded guilty to engaging in bid-rigging, price-fixing, and market allocation during the same time period as the DENSO and Hitachi Defendants with multiple OEMs as their targets, including, among others, Suzuki, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Chrysler, German manufacturers and unnamed automobile manufacturers.

171. On April 3, 2012, the DOJ announced that G.S. Electech Inc. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$2.75 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, speed sensor wire assemblies used on antilock brake systems sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere.

172. On April 23, 2012, the DOJ announced that Fujikura Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$20 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and

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maintain the prices of, automotive wire harnesses and related products sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere.

173. On June 6, 2012, the DOJ announced that Autoliv Inc. had agreed to plead guilty to a two-count criminal Information and to pay a \$14.5 million criminal fine for its involvement in a combination and conspiracy to suppress competition in the automotive parts industry by (i) agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, certain seatbelts sold to a Japanese automobile manufacturer; and (ii) agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, certain seatbelts, airbags, and/or steering wheels sold to a Japanese automobile manufacturer.

174. On July 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that TRW Deutschland Holding GmbH had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$5.1 million criminal fine for its involvement in a combination and conspiracy, through its employees, including high level employees of its wholly-owned subsidiaries, to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of seatbelts, airbags and steering wheels sold to two German automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere.

175. On August 28, 2012, the DOJ announced that Nippon Seiki Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$1 million criminal fine for its involvement in a combination and conspiracy to suppress competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, instrument panel clusters sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere.

176. On October 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Tokai Rika Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$17.7 million criminal fine for its involvement in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, HCPs sold to Toyota Motor Corporation and Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc. in the United States and elsewhere. Tokai Rika also

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agreed to plead guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice related to the investigation of the antitrust violation.

177. “This criminal activity has a significant impact on the automotive manufacturers in the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe and has been occurring for at least a decade. The conduct had also affected commerce on a global scale in almost every market where automobiles are manufactured and/or sold,” said FBI’s Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena.

178. “When companies partner to control and price fix bids or contracts, it undermines the foundation of the United States’ economic system,” Arena also said. “The FBI is committed to aggressively pursuing any company involved in antitrust crimes.”

179. On February 15, 2013, Scott Hammond, the Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Antitrust Division, discussed the DOJ’s ongoing automotive parts investigation in a Thomson Reuters article. He said “[t]he investigation is broader than what we’ve announced so far . . . [The investigation] is still very much ongoing, but it already appears to be the biggest criminal antitrust investigation that we’ve ever encountered. *I say the biggest with respect to the impact on U.S. businesses and consumers, and the number of companies and executives that are subject to the investigation.*” (emphasis added).

180. On July 10, 2013, the European Commission fined four wire harness suppliers, Yazaki, S-Y Systems, Furukawa Electric and Leoni, a total of \$182 million for taking part in cartels that affected Toyota, Nissan, Honda and Renault.

181. On July 16, 2013, the DOJ announced that Diamond Electric Mfg. Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$19 million criminal fine for its involvement in a combination and conspiracy to suppress competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, ignition coils sold to automobile manufacturers in the United

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States and elsewhere.

182. On July 18, 2013, Panasonic Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$45.8 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of various automotive parts including high intensity discharge (“HID”) ballasts, switches and steering angle sensors installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

183. On September 11, 2013, two Fujikura, Ltd. executives were indicted for conspiring to fix the price of wire harness assemblies to Fuji Heavy Industries, the maker of Subaru automobiles.

184. On September 26, 2013, nine additional Japanese automotive suppliers, including Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd., and two more executives agrees to plead guilty to conspiracy charges and pay more than \$740 million in fines for their roles in rigging the prices of 30 products, including Inverters.

185. On October 9, 2013, Takata Corporation announced that it had agreed to pay \$71.3 million to settle antitrust charges brought by the United States federal prosecutors for its role in a conspiracy to price-fix seatbelts.

186. On November 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$120 million criminal fine for its role in two separate conspiracies. Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. Ltd. engaged in a conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to allocate sales of, to rig bids for, and to fix, raise, and maintain the prices of, automotive anti-vibration rubber products sold to Toyota Motor Corporation, Nissan Motor Corporation, Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., and certain of their subsidiaries, affiliates and suppliers in the United States and elsewhere, and by agreeing to allocate sales of, and to fix, raise, and maintain the prices of, automotive constant-velocity-joint boot products sold to GKN plc and its subsidiaries in the United States and elsewhere.

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187. On November 27, 2013, Stanley Electric Co. Ltd. agreed to pay a \$1.44 million criminal fine and plead guilty to price-fixing allegations involving high-intensity discharge (HID) lamp ballasts sold to automakers in the United States and elsewhere.

188. On January 16, 2014, the DOJ announced that Koito Manufacturing Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$56.6 million criminal fine for its roles in separate price-fixing conspiracies involving automobile lighting fixtures and automotive HID lamp ballasts installed in cars sold in the United States and elsewhere.

189. On February 3, 2014, the DOJ announced that Aisan Industry Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$6.86 million criminal fine for its role in a price-fixing conspiracy involving electronic throttle bodies sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere.

190. On February 13, 2014, Bridgestone Corp. agreed to pay a \$425 million criminal fine and plead guilty for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive anti-vibration rubber parts.

191. On February 20, 2014, the DOJ announced that Kazuaki Fujutani, a former executive of Defendant DENSO Corporation, agreed to serve one year and one day in a U.S. prison and plead guilty to a one-count criminal Information charging him with obstruction of justice for deleting numerous e-mails and electronic documents upon learning the FBI was executing a search warrant on Defendant DENSO International America, Inc., in connection with the DOJ's investigation into a conspiracy to fix the prices of heater control panels installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

192. On April 23, 2014, the DOJ announced that Showa Corp. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$19.9 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices and rig bids for pinion-assist type electric powered steering assemblies installed in cars sold in the United States and elsewhere.

193. On August 19, 2014, the DOJ announced that NGK Sparkplug Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$52.1 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices and rig bids for

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spark plugs, standard oxygen sensors, and air fuel ratio sensors installed in cars sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere.

194. On September 29, 2014, the DOJ announced that Toyota Gosei Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$26 million criminal fine for its involvement in a combination and conspiracy to suppress competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to allocate sales of, to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of certain automotive hoses sold to Toyota in the United States and by agreeing to allocate sales of, to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, automotive airbags and steering wheels sold to Subaru and Toyota in the United States and elsewhere.

195. On October 31, 2014, the DOJ announced that Hitachi Metals Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$1.25 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to allocate the sales of, to rig bids for, and to fix, raise, and maintain the prices of automotive brake hose sold to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere.

196. On November 13, 2014, the DOJ announced that Aisin Seiki Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$35.8 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to allocate customers of variable valve timing devices installed in cars sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere.

197. On November 24, 2014, the DOJ announced that Continental Automotive Electronics LLC and Continental Automotive Korea Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a criminal fine of \$4 million for their roles in a conspiracy to rig bids of instrument panel clusters installed in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States.

198. To date, 32 companies and 48 executives have been charged in the Antitrust Division's ongoing investigation into price fixing and bid rigging in the auto parts industry. Each of the 32 companies have either pleaded guilty or have agreed to plead guilty and, all together, they have agreed to

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pay more than \$2.4 billion in criminal fines.

199. The U.S. government has said its automotive parts cartel criminal investigation will continue and other suppliers could be charged.

E. Likely Existence of an “Amnesty Applicant.”

200. The Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act (“ACPERA”) provides leniency benefits for a participant in a price-fixing conspiracy that voluntarily discloses its conduct to the Department of Justice. In most recent cases in which guilty pleas for price-fixing conduct have been obtained, there has been a cooperating party that has been accepted into the DOJ’s ACPERA program as an “amnesty applicant.” One of the leniency benefits for a conspirator that is accepted into the ACPERA program is that it is not charged with a criminal offense and is not required to plead guilty to criminal charges.

201. In light of the guilty plea in this case, guilty pleas in related automotive parts antitrust cases and the DOJ’s ongoing investigation into the industry, it is reasonable for this Court to infer that there is an ACPERA “amnesty applicant” in this case.

F. Illustrative Examples

202. Illustrative examples of Defendants’ conspiratorial conduct in the market for Inverters include, but are not limited to, the following:

[REDACTED]

203. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REDACTED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

204.

[REDACTED]

G. Damage to Plaintiffs and Other Automobile Dealers Caused by Defendants' Illegal Activities

205. Defendants' conspiracy resulted in Defendants charging inflated prices to firms who directly purchased Inverters from them and in those purchasers raising their prices to subsequent purchasers.

206. Having paid higher prices for components of the cars they sold to Plaintiffs and the Classes and the Inverters they sold to Plaintiffs and the Classes, firms who sold such Inverters and

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vehicles passed Defendants' overcharges on to Plaintiffs and the Classes.

207. Plaintiffs and the Classes are entitled to the overcharges they paid for Inverters.

208. Plaintiffs have standing and have suffered damage compensable by indirect purchaser laws and they and members of the classes they seek to represent have sustained significant damage and injury as a result of Defendants' conspiracy.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

209. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, seeking equitable and injunctive relief on behalf of the following class (the "Nationwide Class"):

All automobile dealers that, during the Class Period, (a) indirectly purchased Inverters manufactured or sold by a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary or affiliate thereof or any co-conspirator, or (b) purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured or sold by a Defendant or any current or former subsidiary, affiliate thereof or co-conspirator.

210. Plaintiffs also bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure seeking damages pursuant to the antitrust, unfair competition, unjust enrichment, and consumer protection laws of the states whose laws are set forth in the Second and Third Claims below, as well as the unjust enrichment laws of Missouri, Massachusetts and Illinois. The states whose laws are set forth in the Second and Third Claims below, as well as Missouri, Massachusetts, and Illinois, are collectively referred to as the "Indirect Purchaser States." These claims are brought by Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and entities in the Indirect Purchaser States listed in the Second, Third and Fourth Claims as follows (the "Damages Class"):

All automobile dealers, in the Indirect Purchaser States, that, during the Class Period (a) indirectly purchased Inverters manufactured or sold by one of the Defendants or any current or former subsidiary or affiliate thereof, or any co-conspirator or (b) purchased vehicles containing Inverters manufactured or sold by one of the Defendants or any current or former subsidiary, affiliate or co-conspirator thereof.

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211. The Nationwide Class and the Damages Class are referred to herein as the “Classes.” Excluded from the Classes are the Defendants, their parent companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, any co-conspirators, federal governmental entities and instrumentalities of the federal government, states and their subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, any judicial officer presiding over this matter, persons who purchased Inverters directly, and persons in the End-Payor Class, as defined in the End-payor complaint.

212. While Plaintiffs do not know the exact number of the members of the Classes, Plaintiffs believe there are (at least) thousands of members in each Class.

213. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Classes. This is particularly true given the nature of the Defendants’ and their co-conspirators’ conspiracy, which was generally applicable to all the members of both Classes, thereby making appropriate relief with respect to the Classes as a whole. Such questions of law and fact common to the Classes include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Whether the Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in a combination and conspiracy among themselves to fix, raise, maintain or stabilize the prices of Inverters sold in the United States;
- (b) The identity of the participants of the alleged conspiracy;
- (c) The duration of the alleged conspiracy and the acts carried out by the Defendants and their co-conspirators in furtherance of the conspiracy;
- (d) Whether the alleged conspiracy violated the Sherman Act, as alleged in the First Claim for Relief;
- (e) Whether the alleged conspiracy violated state antitrust and unfair competition law, and/or state consumer protection law, as alleged in the Second and Third Claims for Relief;
- (f) Whether the Defendants unjustly enriched themselves to the detriment of the Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes, thereby entitling Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes to disgorgement of all benefits derived by the Defendants, as alleged in the Fourth Claim for Relief;

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- (g) Whether the conduct of the Defendants and their co-conspirators, as alleged in this Complaint, caused injury to the business or property of Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes;
- (h) The effect of the alleged conspiracy on the prices of Inverters sold in the United States during the Class Period;
- (i) Whether Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes had any reason to know or suspect the conspiracy, or any means to discover the conspiracy;
- (j) Whether the Defendants and their co-conspirators fraudulently concealed the conspiracy's existence from Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes;
- (k) The appropriate injunctive and related equitable relief for the Nationwide Class; and
- (l) The appropriate class-wide measure of damages for the Damages Class.

214. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Classes, and Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Classes. Plaintiffs and all members of the Classes are similarly affected by the Defendants' wrongful conduct in that they paid artificially inflated prices for Inverters purchased indirectly from the Defendants and/or their co-conspirators.

215. Plaintiffs' claims arise out of the same common course of conduct giving rise to the claims of the other members of the Classes. Plaintiffs' interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, those of the other members of the Classes. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are competent and experienced in the prosecution of antitrust and class action litigation.

216. The questions of law and fact common to the members of the Classes predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual issues relating to liability and damages.

217. Class action treatment is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, in that, among other things, such treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently and without the

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unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. The benefits of proceeding through the class mechanism, including providing injured persons or entities with a method for obtaining redress for claims that might not be practicable to pursue individually, substantially outweigh any difficulties that may arise in the management of this class action.

218. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Classes would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for the Defendants.

PLAINTIFFS AND THE CLASSES SUFFERED ANTITRUST INJURY

219. The Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy had the following effects, among others:

- (a) Price competition has been restrained or eliminated with respect to Inverters;
- (b) The prices of Inverters have been fixed, raised, maintained, or stabilized at artificially inflated levels;
- (c) Indirect purchasers of Inverters have been deprived of free and open competition;
- (d) Defendants charged direct purchasers of their Inverters inflated prices as a result of their conspiracy.
- (e) Having paid higher prices for components of the cars they sold to Plaintiffs and the Classes and the Inverters they sold to Plaintiffs and the Classes, firms who sold Defendants' Inverters and vehicles to Plaintiffs and the Classes passed Defendants' overcharges on to them;
- (f) Defendants' overcharges passed through each level of distribution as they traveled to Plaintiffs and the Classes;
- (g) Automobile dealers purchasing Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters have been deprived of free and open competition; and
- (h) Indirect purchasers of Inverters paid artificially inflated prices.

220. During the Class Period, Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes paid supracompetitive prices for Inverters, as a result of the Defendants' conspiracy.

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221. An increase in the prices of Inverters caused an increase in the price of vehicles during the class period.

222. Inverters comprise a significant portion of the price of a vehicle.

223. The markets for Inverters and vehicles are inextricably linked and intertwined because the market for Inverters exists to serve the vehicle market. Without the vehicles, the Inverters have little to no value because they have no independent utility. Indeed, the demand for vehicles creates the demand for Inverters. As stated in the 2010 Annual Report of Lear Corporation, an automobile parts supplier: “Our sales are driven by the number of vehicles produced by the automotive manufacturers, which is ultimately dependent on consumer fleet demand for automotive vehicles.”

224. Inverters are identifiable, discrete physical products that remain essentially unchanged when incorporated into a vehicle. As a result, Inverters follow a traceable physical chain of distribution from the Defendants to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes, and any costs attributable to Inverters can be traced through the chain of distribution to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes.

225. Just as Inverters can be physically traced through the supply chain, so can their price be traced to show that changes in the prices paid by direct purchasers of Inverters affect prices paid by indirect purchasers of new motor vehicles containing Inverters and Inverters purchased for repair purposes.

226. Inverters have their own part numbers, which permit them to be tracked.

227. Inverters can be removed from a finished vehicle and replaced.

228. The Inverters subject to the Defendants’ conspiracy and at issue in this lawsuit only have one use: to be inserted into vehicles. Whether Inverters are sold by themselves or in vehicles, their purpose is to be inserted into vehicles.

229. The purpose of the conspiratorial conduct of the Defendants and their co- conspirators

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was to raise, fix, rig or stabilize the price of Inverters and, as a direct and foreseeable result, the price of new motor vehicles containing Inverters and the price of Inverters purchased for repair purposes. Economists have developed techniques to isolate and understand the relationship between one “explanatory” variable and a “dependent” variable in those cases when changes in the dependent variable are explained by changes in a multitude of variables, even when all such variables may be changing simultaneously. That analysis - called regression analysis - is commonly used in the real world and in litigation to determine the impact of a price increase on one cost in a product (or service) that is an assemblage of costs. Thus, an economist can isolate and identify only the impact of an increase in the price of Inverters on prices for new motor vehicles even though such products contain a number of other components whose prices may be changing over time. A regression model can explain how variation in the price of Inverters affects changes in the price of new motor vehicles. In such models, the price of Inverters would be treated as an independent or explanatory variable. The model can isolate how changes in the price of Inverters impact the price of new motor vehicles containing Inverters while controlling for the impact of other price-determining factors.

230. The precise amount of the overcharge impacting the prices of new motor vehicles containing Inverters can be measured and quantified. Commonly used and well-accepted economic models can be used to measure both the extent and the amount of the supracompetitive charge passed through the chain of distribution. Thus, the economic harm to Plaintiffs and class members can be quantified.

231. By reason of the violations of the antitrust law alleged herein, Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes have sustained injury to their businesses or property, having paid higher prices for Inverters than they would have paid in the absence of the Defendants’ and their co-conspirators’ illegal contract, combination, or conspiracy, and, as a result, have suffered damages in an amount

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presently undetermined. This is an antitrust injury of the type that the antitrust laws were meant to punish and prevent, and Plaintiffs' and Class members' damages are measurable.

PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS ARE NOT BARRED BY THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

A. The Statute of Limitations Did Not Begin to Run Because Plaintiffs Did Not And Could Not Discover Their Claims

232. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations set forth above.

233. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes had no knowledge of the combination or conspiracy alleged herein, or of facts sufficient to place them on inquiry notice of the claims set forth herein, until (at the earliest) September 26, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd.'s anticipated guilty plea. [REDACTED]

234. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes are indirect purchasers who purchased automobiles or purchased Inverters to replace or repair damaged or defective Inverters in their automobiles. They had no direct contact or interaction with the Defendants in this case and had no means from which they could have discovered the combination and conspiracy described in this Complaint before September 26, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd.'s anticipated guilty plea, [REDACTED]

235. No information in the public domain was available to the Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes prior to September 26, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd.'s anticipated guilty plea, that revealed sufficient information to suggest that the Defendants were involved in a criminal conspiracy to price-fix and rig bids for Inverters. Plaintiffs

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and the members of the Classes had no means of obtaining any facts or information concerning any aspect of the Defendants' dealings with OEMs or other direct purchasers, much less the fact that they and their co-conspirators had engaged in the combination and conspiracy alleged herein.

236. For these reasons, the statute of limitations as to Plaintiffs' and the Classes' claims did not begin to run, and has been tolled with respect to the claims that Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes have alleged in this Complaint.

B. Fraudulent Concealment Tolled the Statute of Limitations

237. In the alternative, application of the doctrine of fraudulent concealment tolled the statute of limitations on the claims asserted herein by Plaintiffs and the Classes. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes did not discover, and could not discover through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the existence of the conspiracy alleged herein until September 26, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd.'s anticipated guilty plea, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

238. Because the Defendants' agreements, understandings, and conspiracies were kept secret until September 26, 2013, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes were unaware before that time of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, and they did not know before then that they were paying supracompetitive prices for Inverters throughout the United States during the Class Period. No information, actual or constructive, was ever made available to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes that indicated to Plaintiffs that they were being injured by the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

239. The affirmative acts of Defendants alleged herein, including acts in furtherance of the conspiracy, were wrongfully concealed and carried out in a manner that precluded detection.

240. Defendants had secret communications to collusively fix prices, rig bids, and allocate markets for Inverters.

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241. Specifically, as Attorney General Holder explained in connection with the DOJ's globally coordinated investigation into price-fixing in the Automotive parts industry, "[i]n order to keep their illegal conduct secret, [Defendants] used code names and met in remote locations."

242. As alleged in the Information filed against Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd., the Defendants and their co-conspirators "employ[ed] measures to keep their conduct secret, including, but not limited to, using code names and meeting at remote locations."

243. A former executive of Defendant DENSO, Kazuaki Fujitani, pleaded guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice in which he admitted that he "corruptly destroyed and concealed records and documents by deleting numerous emails and electronic files from the period August 1, 2009 to January 4, 2010" for a related automotive part.

244. Defendants also concealed their conspiracy by submitting bids to OEMs, to give the appearance of competition, despite having already determined among themselves who would win each bid.

245. By its very nature, the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' anticompetitive conspiracy was inherently self-concealing. Inverters are not exempt from antitrust regulation, and thus, before September 26, 2013, Plaintiffs reasonably considered it to be a competitive industry. Accordingly, a reasonable person under the circumstances would not have been alerted to begin to investigate the legitimacy of the Defendants' Inverters prices before September 26, 2013, and a reasonable person would not have been alerted to file claims against [REDACTED]

246. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes could not have discovered the alleged contract, conspiracy or combination at an earlier date by the exercise of reasonable diligence because of the deceptive practices and techniques of secrecy employed by the Defendants and their co-conspirators

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to avoid detection of, and fraudulently conceal, their contract, combination, or conspiracy.

247. Because the alleged conspiracy was both self-concealing and affirmatively concealed by the Defendants and their co-conspirators, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes had no knowledge of the alleged conspiracy, or of any facts or information that would have caused a reasonably diligent person to investigate whether a conspiracy existed, until September 26, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd.'s anticipated guilty plea, [REDACTED]

248. For these reasons, the statute of limitations applicable to Plaintiffs' and the Classes' claims was tolled and did not begin to run until September 26, 2013 and September 2014, respectively.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act
(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class)

249. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

250. The Defendants and unnamed co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a contract, combination, or conspiracy in unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1).

251. The acts done by the Defendants as part of, and in furtherance of, their and their co-conspirators' contract, combination, or conspiracy were authorized, ordered, or done by their officers, agents, employees, or representatives while actively engaged in the management of their affairs.

252. At least as early as January 2000, and continuing until at least the filing of this Complaint, the exact dates being unknown to Plaintiffs, the Defendants and their co-conspirators entered into a continuing agreement, understanding and conspiracy in restraint of trade to artificially fix, raise, stabilize, and control prices for Inverters, thereby creating anticompetitive effects.

253. The anticompetitive acts were intentionally directed at the United States market for Inverters and had a substantial and foreseeable effect on interstate commerce by raising and fixing prices

REDACTED

for Inverters throughout the United States.

254. The conspiratorial acts and combinations have caused unreasonable restraints in the market for Inverters.

255. As a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and other similarly situated indirect purchasers in the Nationwide Class who purchased Inverters have been harmed by being forced to pay inflated, supracompetitive prices for Inverters.

256. In formulating and carrying out the alleged agreement, understanding and conspiracy, the Defendants and their co-conspirators did those things that they combined and conspired to do, including but not limited to the acts, practices and course of conduct set forth herein.

257. The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' conspiracy had the following effects, among others:

(a) Price competition in the market for Inverters has been restrained, suppressed, and/or eliminated in the United States;

(b) Prices for Inverters sold by the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been fixed, raised, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high, non-competitive levels throughout the United States;

(c) Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class who purchased Inverters indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been deprived of the benefits of free and open competition.

258. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class have been injured and will continue to be injured in their business and property by paying more for Inverters purchased indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators than they would have paid and will pay in the absence of the conspiracy.

REDACTED

259. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class will continue to be subject to Defendants' price-fixing, bid-rigging, and market allocations, which will deprive Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class of the benefits of free competition, including competitively-priced Inverters and vehicles.

260. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class will continue to lose funds due to overpayment for Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters because they are required to purchase vehicles and Inverters to continue to operate their businesses.

261. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class continue to purchase vehicles and Inverters, on a regular basis.

262. Vehicles and Inverters continue to be sold at inflated and supracompetitive prices.

263. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class will be at the mercy of Defendants' unlawful conduct until the Court orders an injunction.

264. The alleged contract, combination, or conspiracy is a *per se* violation of the federal antitrust laws.

265. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class are entitled to an injunction against the Defendants, preventing and restraining the violations alleged herein.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of State Antitrust Statutes
(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Damages Class)

266. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

267. From as early as January 2000 until at least the filing of this Complaint, the Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in a continuing contract, combination or conspiracy with respect to the sale of Inverters in unreasonable restraint of trade and commerce and in violation of the various state antitrust statutes set forth below.

REDACTED

268. The contract, combination, or conspiracy consisted of an agreement among the Defendants and their co-conspirators to fix, raise, inflate, stabilize, and/or maintain at artificially supracompetitive levels the prices for Inverters and to allocate customers for Inverters in the United States.

269. In formulating and effectuating this conspiracy, the Defendants and their co-conspirators performed acts in furtherance of the combination and conspiracy, including:

(a) participating in meetings and conversations among themselves in the United States and elsewhere during which they agreed to price Inverters at certain levels, and otherwise to fix, increase, inflate, maintain, or stabilize effective prices paid by Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class with respect to Inverters sold in the United States;

(b) allocating customers and markets for Inverters in the United States in furtherance of their agreements; and

(c) participating in meetings and conversations among themselves in the United States and elsewhere to implement, adhere to, and police the unlawful agreements they reached.

270. The Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in the actions described above for the purpose of carrying out their unlawful agreements to fix, maintain, increase, or stabilize prices and to allocate customers with respect to Inverters.

271. The Defendants' anticompetitive acts described above were knowing and willful and constitute violations or flagrant violations of the following state antitrust statutes.

272. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Arizona Revised Statutes, §§ 44-1401, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout

REDACTED

Arizona; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Arizona; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Arizona commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-1401, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-1401, *et seq.*

273. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the California Business and Professions Code, §§ 16700, *et seq.*

(a) During the Class Period, the Defendants and their co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a continuing unlawful trust in restraint of the trade and commerce described above in violation of Section 16720, California Business and Professions Code. The Defendants have acted in violation of Section 16720 to fix, raise, stabilize, and maintain prices of, and allocate markets for, Inverters at supracompetitive levels.

(b) The aforesaid violations of Section 16720, California Business and Professions Code, consisted, without limitation, of a continuing unlawful trust and concert of action among the Defendants and their co-conspirators, the substantial terms of which were to fix, raise, maintain, and stabilize the prices of, and to allocate markets for, Inverters.

REDACTED

(c) For the purpose of forming and effectuating the unlawful trust, the Defendants and their co-conspirators have done those things which they combined and conspired to do, including but in no way limited to the acts, practices and course of conduct set forth above and the following: (1) Fixing, raising, stabilizing, and pegging the price of Inverters; and (2) Allocating among themselves the production of Inverters.

(d) The combination and conspiracy alleged herein has had, inter alia, the following effects: (1) Price competition in the sale of Inverters has been restrained, suppressed, and/or eliminated in the State of California; (2) Prices for Inverters sold by the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been fixed, raised, stabilized, and pegged at artificially high, non-competitive levels in the State of California and throughout the United States; and (3) Those who purchased Inverters directly or indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been deprived of the benefit of free and open competition.

(e) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property in that they paid more for Inverters than they otherwise would have paid in the absence of the Defendants' unlawful conduct. As a result of the Defendants' violation of Section 16720 of the California Business and Professions Code, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek treble damages and their cost of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee, pursuant to Section 16750(a) of the California Business and Professions Code.

274. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the District of Columbia Code Annotated §§ 28-4501, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout

REDACTED

the District of Columbia; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout the District of Columbia; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in the District of Columbia and/or purchased Inverters in the District of Columbia, were deprived of free and open competition, including in the District of Columbia; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in the District of Columbia and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in the District of Columbia, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters, including in the District of Columbia.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected District of Columbia commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of District of Columbia Code Ann. §§ 28-4501, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under District of Columbia Code Ann. §§ 28-4501, *et seq.*

275. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Hawaii Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 480-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Hawaii; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Hawaii; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially

REDACTED

inflated prices for Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Hawaii commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

276. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Hawaii Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 480-4, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Hawaii Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 480-4, *et seq.*

277. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Iowa; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Iowa; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Iowa commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

REDACTED

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.*

278. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, §§ 50-101, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Kansas; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Kansas; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Kansas commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Kansas Stat. Ann. §§ 50-101, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Kansas Stat. Ann. §§ 50-101, *et seq.*

279. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the

REDACTED

following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Maine; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Maine; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Maine commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.*

280. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated §§ 445.771, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Michigan; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Michigan; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Michigan commerce.

REDACTED

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Michigan Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 445.771, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Michigan Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 445.771, *et seq.*

281. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Minnesota Annotated Statutes §§ 325D.49, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Minnesota; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Minnesota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Minnesota commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Minnesota Stat. §§ 325D.49, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Minnesota Stat. §§ 325D.49, *et seq.*

REDACTED

282. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 75-21-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Mississippi; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Mississippi; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Mississippi and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in Mississippi were deprived of free and open competition, including in Mississippi; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Mississippi and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in Mississippi paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters, including in Mississippi.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Mississippi commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Mississippi Code Ann. §§ 75-21-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Mississippi Code Ann. §§ 75-21-1, *et seq.*

283. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Nebraska; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels

REDACTED

throughout Nebraska; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Nebraska commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.*

284. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Nevada Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 598A.010, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Nevada; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Nevada; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Nevada and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in Nevada, were deprived of free and open competition in Nevada; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Nevada and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in Nevada, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters, including in Nevada.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected

REDACTED

Nevada commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Nevada Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 598A.010, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Nevada Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 598A.010, *et seq.*

285. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Hampshire; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Hampshire; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New Hampshire commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.* Accordingly,

REDACTED

Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.*

286. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Mexico; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Mexico; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New Mexico commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of New Mexico Stat. Ann. §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New Mexico Stat. Ann. §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.*

287. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New York General Business Laws §§ 340, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New York; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels

REDACTED

throughout New York; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in New York and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in New York, were deprived of free and open competition, including in New York; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in New York and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in New York, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters when they purchased, including in New York, Inverters or vehicles containing Inverters, or purchased vehicles and Inverters that were otherwise of lower quality than they would have been absent the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' illegal acts, or were unable to purchase Inverters or vehicles that they would have otherwise have purchased absent the illegal conduct.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New York commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of the New York Donnelly Act, §§ 340, *et seq.* The conduct set forth above is a *per se* violation of the Act. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New York Gen. Bus. Law §§ 340, *et seq.*

288. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the North Carolina General Statutes §§ 75-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Carolina; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels

REDACTED

throughout North Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in North Carolina and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in North Carolina, were deprived of free and open competition, including in North Carolina; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in North Carolina and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in North Carolina, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters or vehicles containing Inverters, including in North Carolina.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected North Carolina commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. §§ 75-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under North Carolina Gen. Stat. §§ 75-1, *et. seq.*

289. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the North Dakota Century Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Dakota; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout North Dakota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect

REDACTED

on North Dakota commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of North Dakota Cent. Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under North Dakota Cent. Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.*

290. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Oregon; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Oregon; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Oregon commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and

REDACTED

members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.*

291. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the South Dakota Codified Laws §§ 37-1-3.1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout South Dakota; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout South Dakota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in South Dakota and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in South Dakota, were deprived of free and open competition, including in South Dakota; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in South Dakota and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in South Dakota, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters, including in South Dakota.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on South Dakota commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of South Dakota Codified Laws Ann. §§ 37-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under South Dakota Codified Laws Ann. §§ 37-1, *et seq.*

292. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in

REDACTED

violation of the Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Tennessee; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Tennessee; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Tennessee and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in Tennessee, were deprived of free and open competition, including in Tennessee; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Tennessee and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in Tennessee, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters, including in Tennessee.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Tennessee commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Tennessee Code Ann. §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Tennessee Code Ann. §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.*

293. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout

REDACTED

Utah; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Utah; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Utah commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.*

294. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of 9 Vermont Stat. Ann. §§ 2453, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Vermont; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Vermont; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Vermont commerce.

REDACTED

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Vermont Stat. Ann. 9 §§ 2453, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under 9 Vermont Stat. Ann. §§ 2453, *et seq.* Plaintiffs are entitled to relief pursuant to 9 Vermont Ann. Stat. § 2465 and any other applicable authority.

295. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the West Virginia Code §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout West Virginia; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout West Virginia; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in West Virginia and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in West Virginia, were deprived of free and open competition, including in West Virginia; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in West Virginia and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in West Virginia, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters, including in West Virginia.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on West Virginia commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened

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with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of West Virginia Code §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under West Virginia Code §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.*

296. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Wisconsin Statutes §§ 133.01, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Wisconsin; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Wisconsin; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Wisconsin commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Wisconsin Stat. §§ 133.01, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Wisconsin Stat. §§ 133.01, *et seq.*

297. Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class in each of the above states have been injured in their business and property by reason of the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' unlawful combination, contract, conspiracy and agreement. Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have

REDACTED

paid more for Inverters than they otherwise would have paid in the absence of the Defendants' unlawful conduct. This injury is of the type the antitrust laws of the above states were designed to prevent and flows from that which makes the Defendants' conduct unlawful.

298. In addition, the Defendants have profited significantly from the aforesaid conspiracy. The Defendants' profits derived from their anticompetitive conduct come at the expense and detriment of the Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class.

299. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class in each of the above jurisdictions seek damages (including statutory damages where applicable), to be trebled or otherwise increased as permitted by a particular jurisdiction's antitrust law, and costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent permitted by the above state laws.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of State Consumer Protection Statutes
(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Damages Class)

300. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

301. The Defendants knowingly engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts or practices in violation of the state consumer protection and unfair competition statutes listed below.

302. The Defendants have knowingly entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-101.

(a) The Defendants knowingly agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling, and/or maintaining at non-competitive and artificially inflated levels, the prices at which Inverters were sold, distributed, or obtained in Arkansas and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

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(b) The aforementioned conduct on the part of the Defendants constituted “unconscionable” and “deceptive” acts or practices in violation of Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-107(a)(10).

(c) The Defendants’ unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Arkansas; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Arkansas; (3) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters.

(d) During the Class Period, the Defendants’ illegal conduct substantially affected Arkansas commerce and consumers.

(e) As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of the Defendants, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

303. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-107(a)(10) and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

304. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts or practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

(a) During the Class Period, the Defendants committed and continue to commit acts of unfair competition, as defined by Sections 17200, *et seq.* of the California Business and Professions Code, by engaging in the acts and practices specified above.

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(b) During the Class Period, Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected California commerce and consumers.

(c) This claim is instituted pursuant to Sections 17203 and 17204 of the California Business and Professions Code, to obtain restitution from the Defendants for acts, as alleged herein, that violated Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code, commonly known as the Unfair Competition Law.

(d) The Defendants' conduct as alleged herein violated Section 17200. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices and non-disclosures of the Defendants, as alleged herein, constituted a common, continuous, and continuing course of conduct of unfair competition by means of unfair, unlawful, and/or fraudulent business acts or practices within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code, Section 17200, *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) the violations of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, as set forth above; (2) the violations of Section 16720, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code, set forth above;

(e) The Defendants' acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures, as described above, whether or not in violation of Section 16720, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code, and whether or not concerted or independent acts, are otherwise unfair, unconscionable, unlawful or fraudulent;

(f) The Defendants' acts or practices are unfair to purchasers of Inverters (or vehicles containing them) in the State of California within the meaning of Section 17200, California Business and Professions Code; and

(g) Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Inverters price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout California; (2) Inverters prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout California; (3) Plaintiffs

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and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in California and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in California, were deprived of free and open competition, including in California; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in California and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in California, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters, including in California.

(h) The Defendants' acts and practices are fraudulent or deceptive within the meaning of Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code.

(i) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class are entitled to full restitution and/or disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by the Defendants as a result of such business acts or practices.

(j) The illegal conduct alleged herein is continuing and there is no indication that the Defendants will not continue such activity into the future.

(k) The unlawful and unfair business practices of the Defendants have caused and continue to cause Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class to pay supracompetitive and artificially-inflated prices for Inverters (or vehicles containing them). Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of such unfair competition.

(l) The conduct of the Defendants as alleged in this Complaint violates Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code.

(m) As alleged in this Complaint, the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been unjustly enriched as a result of their wrongful conduct and by the Defendants' unfair competition. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class are accordingly entitled to equitable relief including restitution and/or disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by the Defendants as a result of such business practices, pursuant to the California

REDACTED

Business and Professions Code, Sections 17203 and 17204.

305. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla. Stat. §§ 501.201, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Florida; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Florida; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Florida and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in Florida were deprived of free and open competition, including in Florida; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in Florida and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in Florida paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters, including in Florida.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Florida commerce and consumers.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury.

(d) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Florida Stat. § 501.201, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

306. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the New Mexico Stat. § 57-12-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining at non-competitive and

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artificially inflated levels, the prices at which Inverters were sold, distributed or obtained in New Mexico and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

307. Plaintiffs were not aware of Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy and were therefore unaware that they were being unfairly and illegally overcharged. There was a gross disparity of bargaining power between the parties with respect to the price charged by Defendants for Inverters. Defendants had the sole power to set that price and Plaintiffs had no power to negotiate a lower price. Moreover, Plaintiffs lacked any meaningful choice in purchasing Inverters because they were unaware of the unlawful overcharge and because they had to purchase Inverters in order to be able to operate their vehicles. Defendants' conduct with regard to sales of Inverters, including their illegal conspiracy to secretly fix the price of Inverters at supracompetitive levels and overcharge consumers, was substantively unconscionable because it was one-sided and unfairly benefited Defendants at the expense of Plaintiffs and the public. Defendants took grossly unfair advantage of Plaintiffs.

(a) The aforementioned conduct on the part of the Defendants constituted "unconscionable trade practices," in violation of N.M.S.A. Stat. § 57-12-3, in that such conduct, *inter alia*, resulted in a gross disparity between the value received by Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class and the prices paid by them for Inverters as set forth in N.M.S.A., § 57-12-2E due to the inflated prices paid by Plaintiffs and Class members for vehicles and Inverters.

(b) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Mexico; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Mexico; (3) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(c) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected

REDACTED

New Mexico commerce and consumers.

(d) As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of the Defendants, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury.

(e) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of New Mexico Stat. § 57-12-1, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

308. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agree to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Inverters were sold, distributed or obtained in New York and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

(b) Defendants deceptively led purchasers, such as Plaintiffs and Class members, to believe that the Inverters they had purchased as replacements and inside vehicles had been sold at legal competitive prices, when they had in fact been sold at collusively obtained inflated prices, that were passed on to them.

(c) The conduct of the Defendants described herein constitutes consumer-oriented deceptive acts or practices within the meaning of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349, which resulted in injuries to purchasers and broad adverse impact on the public at large, and harmed the public interest of New York State in an honest marketplace in which economic activity is conducted in a competitive manner.

(d) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New York; (2) Inverter prices were

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raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New York; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in New York and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in New York, were deprived of free and open competition, including in New York; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in New York and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in New York, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters or vehicles containing Inverters, including in New York.

(e) Because of Defendants' unlawful trade practices in the State of New York, New York purchasers who indirectly purchased Inverters were misled to believe that they were paying a fair price for Inverters or the price increases for Inverters were for valid business reasons; and similarly situated purchasers were affected by Defendants' conspiracy.

(f) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New York commerce and New York purchasers.

(g) During the Class Period, the Defendants directly, or indirectly and through affiliates they dominated and controlled, manufactured, sold and/or distributed Inverters in New York.

(h) Defendants knew that their unlawful trade practices with respect to pricing Inverters would have a broad impact, causing class members who indirectly purchased Inverters to be injured by paying more for Inverters than they would have paid in the absence of Defendants' unlawful trade acts and practices.

(i) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available pursuant to N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349 (h).

309. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint

REDACTED

of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Inverters were sold, distributed or obtained in North Carolina and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

(b) The conduct of the Defendants described herein constitutes consumer-oriented deceptive acts or practices within the meaning of North Carolina law, which resulted in injury to purchasers and broad adverse impact on the public at large, and harmed the public interest of North Carolina purchasers in an honest marketplace in which economic activity is conducted in a competitive manner.

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Carolina; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout North Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in North Carolina and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in North Carolina were deprived of free and open competition, including in North Carolina; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class, including those who resided in North Carolina and/or purchased Inverters or vehicles in North Carolina, paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters or vehicles containing Inverters, including in North Carolina.

(d) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected North Carolina commerce and purchasers in North Carolina.

(e) Defendants deceptively concealed their unlawful activities by conducting meetings and conversations in secret.

(f) During the Class Period, the Defendants directly, or indirectly and through affiliates they dominated and controlled, manufactured, sold and/or distributed Inverters in North Carolina.

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(g) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek actual damages for their injuries caused by these violations in an amount to be determined at trial and are threatened with further injury. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

310. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-10, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout South Carolina; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout South Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters and vehicles containing Inverters.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on South Carolina commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

311. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of S.C. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-10, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

312. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or

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deceptive acts or practices in violation of 9 Vermont § 2451, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce in a market that includes Vermont by affecting, fixing, controlling, and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Inverters were sold, distributed, or obtained in Vermont.

(b) The Defendants deliberately failed to disclose material facts to Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class concerning their unlawful activities and artificially inflated prices for Inverters. The Defendants owed a duty to disclose such facts the Defendants breached that duty by their silence. The Defendants misrepresented to all purchasers during the Class Period that their Inverter prices were competitive and fair.

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Inverter price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Vermont; (2) Inverter prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Vermont; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Inverters.

(d) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' violations of law, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class suffered an ascertainable loss of money or property as a result of the Defendants' use or employment of unconscionable and deceptive commercial practices as set forth above. That loss was caused by the Defendants' willful and deceptive conduct, as described herein.

(e) The Defendants' deception, including their omissions concerning the price of Inverters, likely misled all purchasers acting reasonably under the circumstances to believe that they were purchasing Inverters at prices born by a free and fair market. The Defendants' misleading conduct and unconscionable activities constitutes unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in

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violation of 9 Vermont § 2451, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Unjust Enrichment
on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Damages Class

313. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

314. Plaintiffs bring this claim under the laws of all states listed in the Second and Third Claims, *supra.*, except California. Plaintiffs also bring this claim under the laws of Missouri, Massachusetts and Illinois on behalf of the Plaintiffs who have their primary places of business in those three states and the class members in those three states.

315. As a result of their unlawful conduct described above, the Defendants have and will continue to be unjustly enriched. The Defendants have been unjustly enriched by the receipt of, at a minimum, unlawfully inflated prices and unlawful profits on sales of Inverters.

316. The Defendants have benefited from their unlawful acts and it would be inequitable for the Defendants to be permitted to retain any of the ill-gotten gains resulting from the overpayments made by Plaintiffs or the members of the Damages Class for Inverters.

317. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class are entitled to the amount of the Defendants' ill-gotten gains resulting from their unlawful, unjust, and inequitable conduct. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class are entitled to the establishment of a constructive trust consisting of all ill-gotten gains from which Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class may make claims on a pro rata basis.

318. Pursuit of any remedies against the firms from whom Plaintiffs and the Class members purchased vehicles containing Inverters and Inverters subject to the Defendants' conspiracy would have been futile, given that those firms did not take part in the Defendants' conspiracy.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully request that:

A. The Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and direct that reasonable notice of this action, as provided by Rule 23(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, be given to each and every member of the Classes;

B. That the unlawful conduct, contract, conspiracy, or combination alleged herein be adjudged and decreed:

(a) An unreasonable restraint of trade or commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act;

(b) A *per se* violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act; and

(c) Acts of unjust enrichment by Defendants as set forth herein.

(d) An unlawful combination, trust, agreement, understanding and/or concert of action in violation of the state antitrust and unfair competition and consumer protection laws as set forth herein.

C. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class recover damages, to the maximum extent allowed under such laws, and that a joint and several judgment in favor of Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class be entered against the Defendants in an amount to be trebled to the extent such laws permit;

D. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class recover damages, to the maximum extent allowed by such laws, in the form of restitution and/or disgorgement of profits unlawfully gained from them;

E. The Defendants, their affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees and other officers, directors, partners, agents and employees thereof, and all other persons acting or claiming to act on their

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behalf or in concert with them, be permanently enjoined and restrained from in any manner continuing, maintaining or renewing the conduct, contract, conspiracy, or combination alleged herein, or from entering into any other contract, conspiracy, or combination having a similar purpose or effect, and from adopting or following any practice, plan, program, or device having a similar purpose or effect;

F. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class be awarded restitution, including disgorgement of profits the Defendants obtained as a result of their acts of unfair competition and unjust enrichment;

G. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes be awarded pre- and post- judgment interest as provided by law, and that such interest be awarded at the highest legal rate from and after the date of service of this Complaint;

H. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes recover their costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, as provided by law; and

I. Plaintiffs and members of the Classes have such other and further relief as the case may require and the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury, pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, of all issues so triable.

Dated: December 22, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gerard V. Mantese

Gerard V. Mantese

(Michigan Bar No. P34424)

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